

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:FJTATU:MGH

APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER

EA/TB:GBROBERTS

PM/SAS:CAPT. MARRYOTT (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF EX-VN/KAF ASSETS IN THAILAND

SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY RECENT RTG REFERENCES AND ACTIONS WHICH INDICATE THEIR POSITION ON EX-INDOCHINA MATERIAL IN THAILAND MAY BE SLIPPING. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS FIRM. END SUMMARY.

1. AMONG STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE THAI MIGHT BE SOFTENING THEIR POSITION REGARDING EX-VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN ASSETS IN THAILAND ARE (A) CHAT-CHAI'S REFERENCE TO "CHAGRIN" AT OUR PLANS DURING DISCUSSION WITH THE CHARGE OCT 2 (BANGKOK 21085); (B) KHUKRIT'S SINGLE WORD RESPONSE--PLANES--WHEN ASKED DURING THE OCT 3 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS MEETING OF THE OBSTACLES TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM (BANGKOK 20982); AND (C) CHATCHAI'S SIMILAR REFERENCE  
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DURING TALKS WITH MIKI AND MIYAZAWA IN TOKYO (TOKYO 14290).

2. THESE REMARKS, PLUS THE IMPENDING VISIT TO THAILAND BY CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PREMIER IENG SARY AND INDICATIONS THAT THE RTG IS AGAIN ANGLING FOR AN INVITATION FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HANOI, SUGGEST THAT THE THAI POSITION

ON DISPOSITION OF THE EX-VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN MATERIAL MAY BE SLIPPING.

3. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT OUR POSITION ON THE EQUIPMENT REMAINS FIRM. I.E.: THAT TITLE RESTS WITH THE US AND THAT, AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB SAID DURING HIS VISIT TO THAILAND "NOT ONE SPARK PLUG" SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE VIETNAMESE OR KHMER ROUGE.

4. FYI: DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN THE FINAL PHASES OF PREPARATION AND SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. PROGRESS HAS BEEN HINDERED BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS, AMONG THEM THE DISPOSITION OF LAO MAP EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND ON WHICH DECISIONS ARE EXPECTED SOON. END FYI. KISSINGER

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